

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COPENH 01042 141051Z

43/51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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SS-15 NSC-05 MC-02 /063 W

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R 111600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 729

DOD WASHDC

OSAF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH/YP

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1042

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T A G I N F O

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS,DA

SUBJ: DANISH TIMING ON LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTE

DECISION

REF: A. IR NO. 6 826 0238 75

B. COPENHAGEN 0961

SUMMARY:MFA'S NATO AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BELIEVES THAT  
DANISH PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR THE F-16 PURCHASE  
WILL BE OBTAINED WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY. ON APRIL 15

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 COPENH 01042 141051Z

THE CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO FORMULATE A FORMAL

RECOMMENDATION TO PARLIAMENT AND DECIDE ON TACTICS AND TIMING FOR PARLIAMENTARY SUBMISSION. AFTER A SHORT DEBATE AND EXPECTED APPROVAL, DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER WOULD MEET WITH HIS CONSORTIUM COLLEAGUES IN EARLY MAY TO MAKE THE FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN FAVOR OF THE F-16 BEFORE GOING ON TO A EUROGROUP MEETING. THE DANES ARE AWARE OF THE CONTINUING FRENCH PRESSURE ON THE BELGIANS BUT SAY SIMILAR PRESSURES HERE HAVE BEEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR OF MFA'S NATO AND POLITICAL-MILITARY OFFICE, TORBEN FROST, TOLD POLCOUNS TODAY (APRIL 11) THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS OPTIMISTIC THAT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR DANISH PURCHASE OF THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER WILL BE RELATIVELY EASY TO OBTAIN. FROST CONFIRMED THE PRESS REPORT TRANSMITTED BY REF A THAT THE DANISH CABINET WILL FORMULATE THE FORMAL RECOMMENDATION FOR PARLIAMENT AT A MEETING APRIL 15. FINAL TACTICS AND TIMING FOR PARLIAMENTARY SUBMISSION WILL ALSO BE DETERMINED AT THAT TIME. THROUGHTOUT THE CONVERSATION FROST, WITHOUT ARTICULATING IT, ASSUMED BOTH THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOMMENDATION AND PARLIAMENTARY ACTION WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF THE F-16.

2. FROST EXPECTS THAT THE EXACT QUESTION TO BE PUT TO THE ENTIRE CHAMBER WILL BE ONE OF AN AUTHORIZATION TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF 58 AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE DENMARK'S EXISTING F-100'S. SUCH AN AUTHORIZATION WOULD CONSTITUTIONALLY ALSO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SUCH A PURCHASE.

3. THE DETAILS OF THE OFFERS FROM THE COMPETING SUPPLIERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED THIS WEEK IN VARIOUS FORA: GROUPS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF; THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DOUBLE FOUR COMMITTEE; AND THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEES. FROST BELIEVES THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE SERVED TO CLARIFY THE VARIOUS OFFERS AND THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ITSELF WILL BE BRIEF.

4. THE POSITION OF THE RADICALS REMAINS UNCERTAIN,  
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PAGE 03 COPENH 01042 141051Z

ALTHOUGH IT STILL APPEARS THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT THE FIGHTER PLANE REPLACEMENT. FROST IS ONE OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE RADICALS TO OPT OUT NOW FROM THE EXISTING FOUR-YEAR (1973-1977) DEFENSE AGREEMENT SO THAT THEY COULD BE REPLACED WITH THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY AND PERHAPS THE CENTER DEMOCRATS. THIS ADJUSTMENT IN FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WOULD ALSO BE THE

OCCASION FOR THE EXTENSION, IN A NEW AGREEMENT, OF FUNDING LEVELS TO INCLUDE THE FULL PURCHASE PRICE OF THE 58 AIRCRAFT.

5. ARMED WITH THE NECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR THE F-16, DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER WOULD RETURN TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CONSORTIUM'S DEFENSE MINISTERS IN EARLY MAY. ALTHOUGH A DATE FOR THIS MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN SET, FROST BELIEVED IT MIGHT OCCUR OVER THE WEEKEND OF MAY 3-4 PRIOR TO A MEETING OF THE EUROGROUP LATER THAT WEEK.

6. HE WAS SANGUINE THAT THE NECESSARY INTERNAL RATIFICATION PROCESS FOR PURCHASE COMMITMENT WOULD BE ACHIEVED IN NORWAY, THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK BY EARLY MAY. THE SITUATION IN BELGIUM, HOWEVER, IS NOT CLEAR. HE SAID THE THREE COUNTRIES WERE COUNTING ON THE PROBABILITY THAT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE BELGIANS WOULD NOT PROCEED ALONE WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE MIRAGE. IF THE CONSORTIUM SPLIT AND BELGIUM OPTED FOR THE MIRAGE, IT WOULD MAKE THINGS "MORE DIFFICULT" FOR THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS; THE DANES WOULD CERTAINLY BE UNDER RENEWED PRESSURE FROM THE SWEDES TO CHOOSE THE VIGGEN.

7. ACCORDING TO FROST, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM WERE WELL AWARE OF THE INTENSITY OF THE FRENCH PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES AND HE RELATED A RECENT TACTIC THAT THE FRENCH USED HERE IN DENMARK. THEY HAD SENT A CIRCULAR LETTER TO A WIDE RANGE OF DANISH OFFICIALS FAVORABLY COMPARING THE FRENCH OFFER WITH THAT OF THE AMERICANS AND CONCLUDING THAT THE EUROPEANS COULD TRUST THE FRENCH TO FULFILL THEIR PROMISES WHILE THEY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 COPENH 01042 141051Z

COULD NOT TRUST THE AMERICANS. FROST CHARACTERIZED THIS TACTIC AS A "CRUDE BLUNDER" WHICH COST THE FRENCH HEAVILY.

8. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, THE DANISH SECTION OF "WAR RESISTERS INTERNATIONAL" HAS THREATENED TO "INFILTRATE" AND SABOTAGE DANISH FIRMS WHICH WOULD RECEIVE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER OFFSET PRODUCTION. IN AN EDITORIAL APRIL 11, AKTUEL (SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY) CRITICIZED THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND REQUESTED ITS INSTIGATORS TO GIVE UP ANY SUCH PLANS. (THIS SERVES TO REAFFIRM THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN FAVOR OF THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER PURCHASE AND IS CONSISTENT WITH FROST'S BELIEF THAT THE PARTY WILL NOT SPLIT OR SUFFER HEAVY DEFECTIONS ON THIS ISSUE.)

9. COMMENT: FROST DISPLAYED THE SAME QUIET CONFIDENCE  
THAT OTHER DANISH ADVOCATES OF THE F-16 HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN  
OVER THE CERTAINTY OF THE CHOICE OF THAT AIRCRAFT. AFTER  
NEXT TUESDAY'S CABINET MEETING, THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT  
THE PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS AND TIMING DECIDED UPON.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, CABINET MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 APR 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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